

From: root@idscc05.onewest.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 12:46pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Sirs:

The following is my comment on the proposed Microsoft settlement.

I care about one thing, and wish to see it abolished by the settlement.

My concern is the agreements between Microsoft and suppliers of hardware peripheral equipment (such as modems, printers, scanners etc.) that have the effect of keeping secret the command-codes needed to write drivers for these peripherals.

I have had to buy a new modem and a new printer and a new TV card to use with Linux, because Linux cannot support the ones that came with my system-- because the free software community is frozen out of the information needed to write the drivers for these peripheral units.

I have been damaged personally by the practice of keeping these drivers a proprietary secret between Microsoft and the peripheral suppliers who make these deals.

I will not be satisfied with the settlement unless and until it specifically precludes Microsoft from using its dominant market position to limit competition by making and keeping such deals to restrict information on the command-codes needed to write the drivers for computer peripheral equipment.

Sincerely,

Dennis O. Donnelly